

**Size:** 9,477 acres  
**Mission:** Support B-52 bombers and KC-135 tankers  
**HRS Score:** 34.49; placed on NPL in February 1990  
**IAG Status:** Federal Facility Agreement signed in April 1991; revision signed in 1994  
**Contaminants:** VOCs, waste fuels, oils, spent solvents, PCBs, pesticides, and heavy metals  
**Media Affected:** Groundwater and soil  
**Funding to Date:** \$113.3 million  
**Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year):** \$10.8 million (FY2048)  
**Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for BRAC Sites:** FY2000



## Limestone, Maine

### Restoration Background

Loring Air Force Base was established in 1952 to support B-52 bombers and KC-135 tankers. In July 1991, the BRAC Commission recommended closure of the base. The Flightline and Nose Dock Areas, where industrial shops and maintenance hangars were located, are the primary areas at which wastes were released into soil and groundwater.

Environmental studies have been in progress at the base since FY84. Sites include spill areas, landfills, fire training areas, underground storage tanks (USTs), aboveground storage tanks, and low-level radioactive waste areas. In FY93, the sites were grouped into 13 operable units (OUs). Interim Remedial Actions initiated in FY93 included removal of free product at three sites, source removal at two sites, and Treatability Studies of bioventing at one site and of solvent extraction at another site.

In FY94, Remedial Actions (RAs) were completed for two OUs. This effort remediated four sites with a total of approximately 7 acres of solvent-contaminated, fuel-contaminated, and PCB-contaminated soil. An Environmental Baseline Survey identified 4,746 acres as CERFA-clean, and the installation received regulatory concurrence on the designations. A BRAC cleanup team (BCT) and a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) were formed.

In FY95, Interim Actions consistent with the final remedy were completed at six sites and initiated at another six. A pilot study for recovery of fuels from bedrock was begun.

In FY96, under EPA's Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation program, the installation demonstrated an innovative emission control system using soil vapor extraction at the Base Laundry. Landfill covers were completed at 2 sites, bioventing systems were installed at

8 sites, Interim Actions were completed at 15 sites, and numerous USTs were removed. PCB cleanups were initiated at an underground transformer site and for the base drainage system. Four Records of Decision (RODs), including the installation's first ROD for groundwater, were signed for 31 sites. A corrective action plan was submitted to the state regulatory agency to address contamination from numerous fuel tank sites.

In FY97, the installation implemented a decision for remediation of the Surface Drainage OU and initiated the cleanup plan for pipeline from the installation to Searsport. Early Removal Actions took place at OU5 and at two pump houses in OU10.

### FY98 Restoration Progress

A ROD was completed for eight Installation Restoration Program sites. The BCT determined that the final 10 source control sites would be best handled in a FY99 source control ROD. It initiated the site closure process, and developed a strategy in coordination with the Local Redevelopment Authority, for eventual deed transfer of property. The BCT also conducted a program review and published an updated BRAC Cleanup Plan.

The installation completed the RA for basewide surface drainage; this action is the largest stream restoration effort in New England. A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Basewide Groundwater OU was completed. Cleanup of fuel spill sites was completed under Maine regulations. Investigative efforts for a pilot study at the base quarry revealed a buried drum disposal site. The BCT immediately coordinated and executed a Removal Action, excavating and disposing of over 300 drums, some of which contained hazardous wastes.

### Plan of Action

- Complete ROD for remaining 10 source control sites in FY99
- Complete construction of cover at Landfill 3 in FY99
- Complete ROD for Basewide Groundwater OU in FY99
- Submit first five-year review in FY99
- Complete quarry pilot study efforts
- Complete fuel spill cleanup along 180-mile pipeline in FY99
- Implement long-term groundwater monitoring plan in FY99
- Implement wetland mitigation projects in FY99-FY00
- Initiate Operating Properly and Successfully determination in FY00

### SITES ACHIEVING RIP OR RC PER FISCAL YEAR

